

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A gutter assembly for use on a roof, comprising:  
a gutter;  
a cover over said gutter, said cover including a bottom surface, said bottom surface being  
at least partially covered with a heat absorbing material; and  
5 a heater plate disposed under said cover, said heater plate carrying at least one heater.
2. The gutter assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater plate has a top surface which is at  
least partially covered with a heat absorbing material.
3. The gutter assembly of claim 2, wherein said heat absorbing material on each of said  
cover and said heater plate comprises an infrared absorbing material.
4. The gutter assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater plate has a top surface and each  
said heater is positioned on said top surface.
5. The gutter assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one heater comprises at least one  
resistance heater wire.
6. The gutter assembly of claim 5, further including at least one adhesive foil, each said  
adhesive foil mounting a corresponding said heater wire to said heater plate.
7. The gutter assembly of claim 5, wherein said at least one resistance heater wire  
comprises two resistance heater wires positioned generally parallel to each other and extending  
along a length of said heater plate.
8. The gutter assembly of claim 7, wherein said resistance heater wires provide a heat  
output of between approximately 10 to 20 Watts/linear foot.
9. The gutter assembly of claim 5, wherein each said resistance heater wire comprises a  
triaxial heater wire.

10. The gutter assembly of claim 1, wherein said gutter assembly includes a plurality of heater plates positioned in an end to end relationship to each other.

11. The gutter assembly of claim 1, further including at least one mounting bracket, and each of said cover and said heater plate are mounted to each said mounting bracket.

12. The gutter assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater plate has a top surface and a bottom surface, each said heater being positioned on said top surface, and further including a layer of insulation positioned adjacent said bottom surface.

13. The gutter assembly of claim 12, wherein said layer of insulation includes a silvered reflecting surface on at least one side thereof.

14. A heater assembly for use with a gutter assembly on a roof, the gutter assembly including a cover over a gutter, said heater assembly comprising: a heater plate carrying at least one heater, said heater plate having a top surface which is at least partially covered with a heat absorbing material.

15. The heater assembly of claim 14, wherein said heat absorbing material on said heater plate comprises an infrared absorbing material.

16. The heater assembly of claim 14, wherein said heater plate has a top surface and each said heater is positioned on said top surface.

17. The heater assembly of claim 14, wherein said at least one heater comprises at least one resistance heater wire.

18. The heater assembly of claim 17, further including at least one adhesive foil, each said adhesive foil mounting a corresponding said heater wire to said heater plate.

19. The heater assembly of claim 17, wherein said at least one resistance heater wire comprises two resistance heater wires positioned generally parallel to each other and extending along a length of said heater plate.

20. The heater assembly of claim 19, wherein said resistance heater wires provide a heat output of between approximately 10 to 20 Watts/linear foot.

21. The heater assembly of claim 17, wherein each said resistance heater wire comprises a triaxial heater wire.

22. A method of heating a gutter assembly on a roof, comprising the steps of:  
at least partially covering a bottom surface of a cover with a heat absorbing material;  
positioning a heater plate along an edge of the roof adjacent a gutter, said heater plate carrying at least one heater; and

5 positioning said cover over said heater plate and said gutter.

23. The method of claim 22, including the step of at least partially covering a top surface of said heater plate with a heat absorbing material.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said heat absorbing material on each of said cover and said heater plate comprises an infrared absorbing material.

25. The method of claim 24, including the step of mounting each said heater to said heater plate using adhesive foil.

26. The method of claim 22, including the step of mounting each of said cover and said heater plate to a mounting bracket.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein said heater plate has a bottom surface, and further including at least one heater positioned on said top surface, and a layer of insulation positioned adjacent said bottom surface.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said layer of insulation includes a silvered reflecting surface on at least one side thereof.